

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 254171

43

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MLEVITSKY:MB

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

H - MR. JENKINS

C - MR. SHINN

S/S :FORTIZ

----- 011252

R 250006Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 254171

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, UR, CGEN, PINT, SREF

SUBJECT:SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 1;089; (B) LENINGRAD 1637;

(C) MOSCOW 15051

1. DEPT. APPRECIATES THOROUGH REPORTING AND ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION CONTAINED IN REFTELS. SUBJECT IS ONE OF HIGH INTEREST, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW DISCUSSIONS DEVELOPING WITH CONGRESS ON POSSIBILITIES FOR REMEDIAL LEGISLATION ON MFN AND CREDITS. WHILE PROSPECTS FOR THIS EFFORT ARE STILL NOT ENCOURAGING AT PRESENT, KEY FACTORS IN ANY IMPROVEMENT WILL BE EMIGRATION FIGURES SUPPLIED BY NETHERLANDS EMBASSY AND EMBASSY'S OWN ASSESSMENT OF TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS. QUALITATIVE ASPECTS OF EMIGRATION ARE EQUALLY IMPORTANT AND ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY CAN DEVELOP ON REGIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROFILE OF EMIGRES WOULD BE APPRECIATED. REALIZE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 254171

MUCH OF THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ELSEWHERE, BUT

DURING PERIOD OF CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATION IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO OBTAIN SUCH INFORMATION MORE PROMPTLY. DEPT. THEREFORE REQUESTS EMBASSY TO CONCENTRATE EVEN MORE CLOSELY ON THIS AREA, PARTICULARLY ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

--A) IF POSSIBLE, EMBASSY SHOULD CONTINUE TO OBTAIN

FROM NETHERLANDS EMBASSY FIGURES ON VISA ISSUANCE ON WEEKLY OR TWICE-MONTHLY BASIS AS WAS DONE IN REFTEL A. ANY INFORMATION NETHERLANDS EMBASSY CAN SUPPLY BASED ON ITS INTERVIEWS WITH VISA APPLICANTS ON LOCAL OVIRS' ATTITUDES, PROCEDURES, AND GENERAL APPROACH WILL BE HIGHLY USEFUL. ADDITIONALLY, ANY REPORTS ON SIGNS THAT SOVIETS ARE TAKING RELATIVELY MORE POSITIVE (OR NEGATIVE) APPROACH AT OVIR LEVEL AND ELSEWHERE WILL BE OF INTEREST. COMMENTS OF VISA APPLICANTS ON CHANGES OF PERCEPTIONS WITHIN JEWISH COMMUNITIES ABOUT EMIGRATION PROSPECTS BASED ON INTERNAL FACTORS (SUCH AS REGARD PROCEDURAL CHANGES, INCREASE OR DECREASE IN HARASSMENT, BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS, ETC.) OR ON EXTERNAL FACTORS (SUCH AS SINAI AGREEMENT, ECONOMIC/POLITICAL SITUATION IN ISRAEL AND WEST, SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES) WILL ALSO BE USEFUL. IF NETHERLANDS EMBASSY INDICATES AT CONSULAR LEVEL THAT IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE SUCH INFORMATION, PERHAPS WORD FROM CHARGE TO NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR MIGHT BE PRODUCTIVE.

--B) CONTINUED REPORTS AND ANALYSIS FROM EMBASSY AND CONGEN BASED ON CONTACTS WITH MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD JEWISH ACTIVISTS ON SAME GENERAL ISSUES AS ABOVE WILL ALSO BE VALUABLE. ANY INDICATIONS OF MOVEMENT (POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE) ON HARDCORE "REFUSENIK" CASES, HARASSMENT, OR ACTIVISTS' PERCEPTIONS OF CHANGES IN EXIT VISA APPLICATION RATE WILL BE SIGNIFICANT. FYI: ISRAELI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON INFORMS US THAT NEW AND RENEWED REQUESTS FROM SOVIET UNION FOR INVITATIONS ("VYZOV") FOR EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL ARE RUNNING ABOUT THREE-AND-ONE-HALF TO FOUR TIMES THE NUMBER OF VISAS ISSUED. ISRAELIS HAVE RECEIVED ABOUT 35,000 NEW OR RENEWED INVITATION REQUESTS THIS YEAR. END FYI
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 254171

--C) REPORTS OF ANY SIGNIFICANT COMMENTS BY SOVIET OFFICIALS ON EMIGRATION ISSUE. (EMBASSY ESCORT OFFICERS MAY FIND THIS PRODUCTIVE AREA FOR PROBING DURING UPCOMING ACYPL VISITS).

2. DEPARTMENT HAS FOLLOWING COMMENTS RE REFTEL A.

--A) REFTEL A REPORTS TOTAL NUMBER OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRANTS THROUGH SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR AS 11,278 (6,940 ADULTS, 4,338 MINOR DEPENDENTS). OUR COUNT BASED ON PREVIOUS EMBASSY REPORTING IS 9,278, WHICH CONFIRMED BY ISRAELI EMBASSY FIGURES. CAN EMBASSY CLEAR THIS UP?

--B) WE NOTE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MONTHLY FIGURES SUPPLIED

BY DUTCH IN MOSCOW AND THOSE OF ISRAELI EMBASSY WASHINGTON. (ISRAELIS REPORTED 1,008 ARRIVALS IN VIENNA DURING SEPTEMBER.) DIFFERENCE SEEMS DUE TO FACT THAT DUTCH FIGURES COVER VISA ISSUANCES WHILE ISRAELI FIGURES ARE FOR ACTUAL ARRIVALS IN VIENNA. 1975 TOTALS ARE, HOWEVER, NEARLY THE SAME. FOR PURPOSE OF ASSESSING TRENDS AND SOVIET PERFORMANCE WE PLAN TO RELY ON DUTCH FIGURES, IF EMBASSY AGREES, WITH ISRAELI FIGURES AS BACKUP. WE WOULD OF COURSE CONTINUE TO HOLD DUTCH FIGURES--AND SOURCE OF THESE FIGURES--CLOSELY.

--C) DEPARTMENT DOES NOT BELIEVE SEPTEMBER INCREASE FIGURES ARE PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT, BECAUSE OF WAY FIGURES HAVE VARIED MONTH BY MONTH. WE NOTE TENDENCY IN PREVIOUS YEARS FOR SEPTEMBER-JANUARY FIGURES TO BE HIGHER THAN OTHER MONTHS, ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW THE REASONS FOR THIS. WE BELIEVE THAT BASELINE FIGURE FOR JUDGING SOVIET PERFORMANCE SHOULD BE 1,000 MONTHLY AVERAGE FIGURE WHICH HAS DEVELOPED DURING 1975. IF OCTOBER FIGURES CONTINUE TO GROW, HOWEVER, A TREND MAY BE IN THE MAKING.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JEWS, DATA, EMIGRANTS, EXIT VISAS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE254171
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MLEVITSKY:MB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750372-0697
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751019/aaaaaqpr.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 MOSCOW 1, 75 LENINGRAD 1637
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION
TAGS: CVIS, CGEN, PINT, SREF, UR
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006